

QA-83
Pascal's Chance
Centreville
Private

circa 1820-35,
circa 1830-40

Although Pascal's Chance is often mistaken for a colonial house, the original section of the building dates to circa 1820-35. It was enlarged soon thereafter, circa 1830-40, to form a more symmetrical five bay, center passage plan house. At the same time, a two story brick wing was constructed on the southeast end of the enlarged house. Early woodwork has survived from both the first and second periods of construction, including three mantels and most of the architrave trim.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Pascal's Chance

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Northeast bank Corsica Creek

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Sidney G. Ashley et al

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

107 South Commerce Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 141

Folio #: 637

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-83

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pascal's Chance is located on the northeast bank of Corsica Creek overlooking Centreville Landing and the bridge to Spaniard's Neck. The house is sited on gently sloping land that runs down to the creek, with farm buildings to the east behind the house and yard.

Pascal's Chance is a large brick house with flanking wings. It was constructed in three separate stages. The original house is 2 1/2 stories high, three bays wide, and one room deep, with a single flush chimney centered on the northwest end of the pitched gable roof. This original section, probably constructed circa 1830-40, was enlarged soon thereafter by an additional two bays to the southeast, forming a five bay, center passage plan house. At this same time a two story brick wing was constructed, extending from the southeast gable wall of the two bay addition. The final period of construction entailed the construction of a smaller 1 1/2 story wing to the northwest in the 20th century.

The southwest facade of the original house, facing Corsica Creek, is three bays wide. The

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

door is located in the southeast bay and is unusually narrow, fitted with a one-light transom. There are two 6/6 windows to the left of the door, and three 6/6 windows ranged across the second story. The brickwork is laid in common bond and is unusually rough. It has been heavily painted over the years, and the roughness of the brickwork implies that it was originally intended to be either painted or stuccoed, a popular practice in the second quarter of the 19th century. The roof is standing seam metal above a corbeled three-course brick cornice.

The lower portion of the northwest gable is covered by the 20th century wing. The only openings in this wall are a pair of small windows flanking the chimney in the upper gable. The brickwork is laid in rough common bond; the gable eaves are trimmed with two-piece rakeboards.

The original three bay section of the northeast facade is similar to the southwest facade. The door is in the southeast bay with two 6/6 windows to the right, three 6/6 windows on the second floor, and a pair of cellar windows directly below the two first floor windows. The brickwork, cornice and roof match the south facade. The one story entrance porch, the front and the shutters are all 20th century.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

Later in the second quarter of the 19th century, the house was enlarged two bays to the southeast to form a symmetrical five bay, center passage plan house. The seam for this addition is clearly visible to the southeast of the center bay on each facade. On the northeast facade, the period II addition consists of two 6/6 windows on both the first and second story, with the brickwork, cornice and roof all identical to the original house. On the southwest facade, there is a door in the southeast bay of the first story, with one 6/6 window to the left and two 6/6 windows on the second story. The southeast gable wall of the enlarged house is almost entirely covered by a two story brick wing constructed at the same time. The only opening in this wall is a single small window to the left of the flush chimney in the upper gable.

The two story wing was clearly constructed when the main house was enlarged, as there is no seam in the brickwork where the two join. This wing is three bays long and one room deep. On the southeast facade, there is a door to right of center flanked by 6/6 windows on the first story and three 6/6 windows ranged across the second story. The brickwork is common bond with a two-course corbeled cornice. The southeast gable wall of the wing has been partially

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

covered by a later kitchen addition. On the north facade, there is a door in the northwest bay with two 6/6 windows to the left and three 6/6 windows on the second floor.

The interior now consists of a center passage plan with the early wing to the southeast and a modern wing to the northwest. The stair rises against the southeast wall of the passage to a landing against the southwest wall. It is an open-string stair with heavy turned newels, a walnut rail, and tapered balusters. The area below the carriage is paneled with modern paneling; a Victorian door opens into a closet under the stair.

In the northwest room, the fireplace has been rebuilt and a door has been added to the left, opening into the modern wing. The mantel in this room is a late Federal surround with molded pilasters flanking the opening below reeded sideblocks and center block and a heavily molded Federal shelf. The architrave trim is beaded, with bullseye corner blocks.

The room to the southeast of the passage dates to the second period of construction. The mantel in this room is typical of the 1830's, utilizing a mixture of late Federal and Greek Revival details. The architrave trim matches the stair passage and northwest

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

room; the chairrail and interior cornice are 20th century.

The second floor also utilizes a center passage plan with a small unheated chamber at the northeast end of the passage, now adapted for a modern bath. A simple board surround with an ogee/astragal backband survives in the northwest room. The architrave trim matches the first story.

The third floor now serves as an attic, with access via a fold-down ladder/stair. The third floor was at one time partitioned to form a stair passage and chambers.

The cellar is divided into two rooms, one below the original house and the other below the period II addition. The joists in the original cellar are laid parallel to the gable walls and are whitewashed. A cellar stair under the passage has been blocked off. It is unclear if the chimney base on the northwest gable wall had a cellar fireplace. The joists in the period II cellar are laid parallel to the facade walls and are also whitewashed. The chimney base in this room consists of two brick piers supporting a heavy wood lintel.

The early wing has been opened up into a single large room on the first floor with a modern brick

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

paved floor. The room has been paneled using early materials, including several circa 1830 cupboard doors in the southeast wall.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although Pascal's Chance is often mistaken for a colonial house, the original section of the building dates to circa 1820-35. It was enlarged soon thereafter, circa 1830-40, to form a more symmetrical five bay, center passage plan house. At the same time, a two story brick wing was constructed on the southeast end of the enlarged house. Early woodwork has survived from both the first and second periods of construction, including three mantels and most of the architrave trim.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

10/27/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XXII; Recorded December 14, 1981.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

CONTINUATION SHEET

9.1 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Emory, Frederick. Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

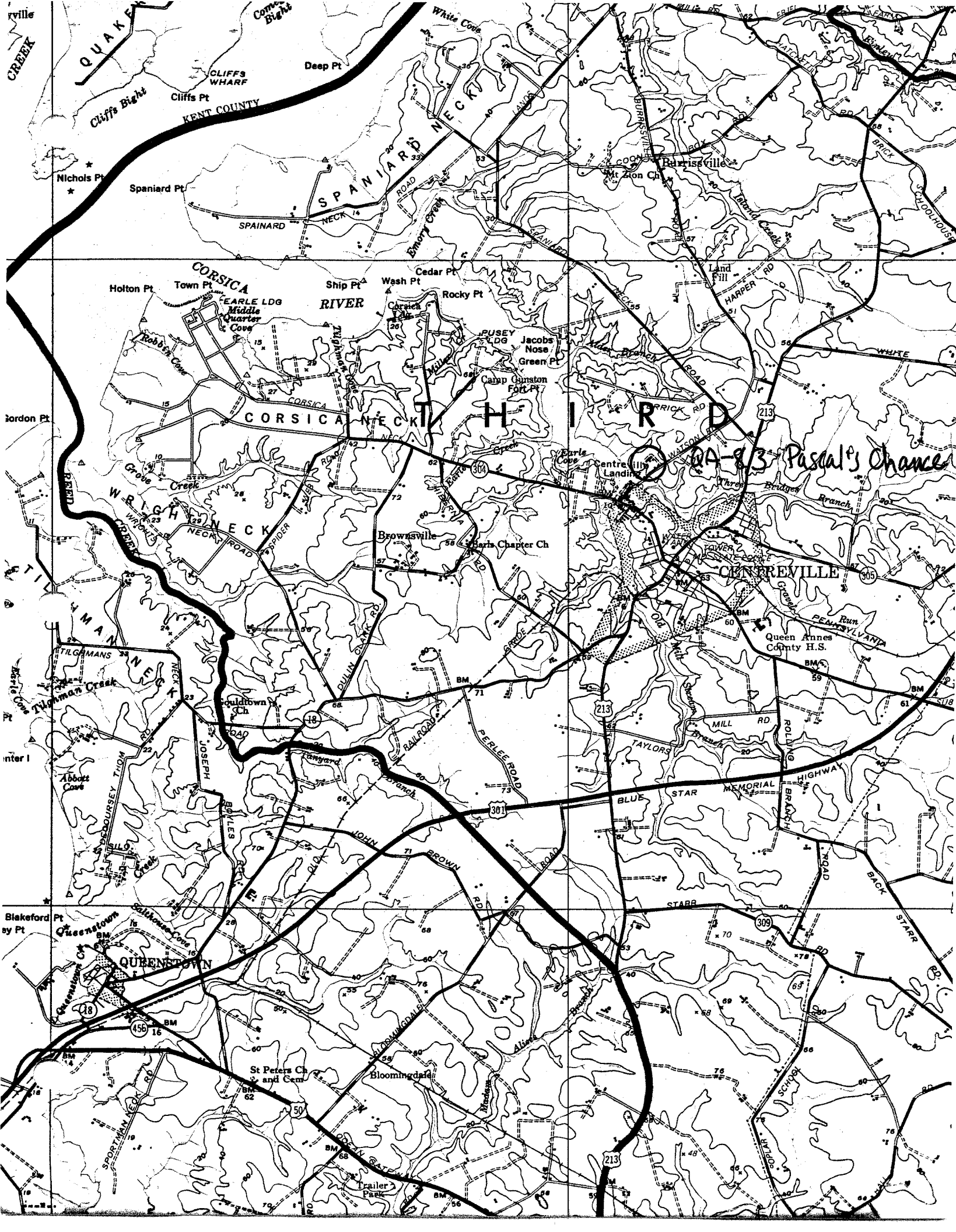
Baltimore, 1950.

Lake, Griffing and Stevenson. An Illustrated Atlas of

Kent and Queen Anne's Counties, Maryland.

Philadelphia, 1877.

Tidewater Times, May 1976.



QA-83
~~Bloomfield~~
Pascal's chance

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-83

Pascal's Chance
Centreville vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1981
View from Southwest



QA-83

Pascal's Chance
Centreville vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1981
View from Northeast



Pascal's Chance

Q. A. #83